

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

10/519288

Applicant's or agent's file reference A2002/00966	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/AT2003/000163	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 04 June 2003 (04.06.2003)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 27 June 2002 (27.06.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC F16K 3/28		
Applicant E. HAWLE ARMATURENWERKE GMBH		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 11 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 15 January 2004 (15.01.2004)	Date of completion of this report 03 September 2004 (03.09.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AT2003/000163

I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- the international application as originally filed
 the description:

pages _____ 2-18 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____ 1,1a _____, filed with the letter of 05 August 2004 (05.08.2004)

- the claims:

pages _____ _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19)
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____ 1-63 _____, filed with the letter of 05 August 2004 (05.08.2004)

- the drawings:

pages _____ 1/10-10/10 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____ _____, filed with the letter of _____

- the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____ _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____ _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language German which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
 the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
 the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

- the entire international application.
 claims Nos. 52-63

because:

- the said international application, or the said claims Nos. _____ relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

- the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. _____ are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

- the claims, or said claims Nos. _____ are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.
 no international search report has been established for said claims Nos. 52-63

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

- the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.
 the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

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International application No.

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Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: BOX III

**Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty,
inventive step and industrial applicability**

No international search report was established for claims 52-63 because these claims relate to a different configuration which was not originally claimed.

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PCT/AT 03/00163

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-51	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-51	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-51	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Independent claim 1 relates to a shut-off fitting with a soft-packing shut-off element in several parts and capable of shutting off a flow channel, and with a base body fitted with sealing elements and having an outer dimension slightly smaller than a nominal width of the flow channel.

Document DE 1 093 634 shows this type of shut-off fitting; the subject matter of claim 1 differs therefrom by the characterising part of the claim, i.e. the specific design of the structures of the base body support surfaces as ribs that protrude over the surface and match structures on the sealing elements, so as to achieve a form-fit, as well as the arrangement of support disks to secure the sealing elements to the base body in a detachable manner.

This structure is unknown from the prior art and cannot be considered obvious because the documents in the proceedings do not give any hint of this structure to a person skilled in the art.

Consequently, the subject matter of claim 1 meets the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) and 33(3).

Claims 2-51 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore likewise meet the PCT novelty and inventive step requirements.